(c) Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) is entrusted with the target of achieving a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for eradication of residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life-long learning to the neo-literates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthans. A large proportion of the beneficiaries under these programmes/schemes are from the rural areas. Recently, a special literacy drive for eradication of residual illiteracy in 150 districts, which have the lowest literacy rates in the country, has been launched. Majority of these districts are also in rural areas.

Infrastructure and funds for NCW

2794. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has assured the members of the National Commission for Women that Government would provide a building and other necessary infrastructure with required funds for smooth functioning of the Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under the new set up women can register complaints "online", and

(d) if so, the extent to which this would help to address the issue of harassment of women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As informed by the National Commission for Women (NCW), during the deliberations on the occasion of the inauguration of the portal of National Resource Centre for Women on 9.9.2005, the Hon'ble Minister for Human

Resource Development had assured that the Government would provide a building and other infrastructure with required funds for smooth functioning of the National Commission for Women. Rs. 180 lakhs has been released to NCW towards construction of a building.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NCW has informed that through the online complaint registration system, the complainant can address the grievance straight to the Commission regardless of the fact as the where the complainant is residing in the country or even outside India. This system helps to expedite the action on the complaint and thereby paving way for speedy redressal of the grievance of the complainant.

Job Reservation for Women

†2795. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women have reservation in Government jobs in each State:

(b) if so, the percentage thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether women are being given jobs as per the prescribed percentage in each State; and

(d) if not, the authority accountable for the same, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The matter falls in the purview of the States and the Government of India has no responsibility in this regard. However, as per information available with the Government, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have schemes of reservation for women in Government service. Government of Bihar informed that they have a provision of providing reservation for women belonging to backward classes (reserved category) in Government jobs/posts.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.